

REMARKS

First, Applicant notes that page 12 of the specification and sheet 3 of the drawings have been amended as indicated herein to remedy minor errors. Furthermore, the independent claims of the application have been amended, and all of the claims are now believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth below.

Specifically, amended independent Claim 13 now requires that an image processing apparatus of the present invention, which includes a reproducing unit for reproducing a part of a moving image from a storage medium during a predetermined reproduction time, is arranged to start selection of a next still image or moving image in order to reproduce the next still image or moving image from the storage medium, if reproduction of the moving image reaches the end of the moving image (e.g., in corrected Fig.3, flow from step S306 to step S309).

The above-described feature of the present invention is not disclosed in the cited Van der Hoven reference, which describes in column 3 lines 59-64 that “The image collection could also comprise one or more video streams. In that case, the representations could be key frames corresponding to portions of the video stream or streams.” The key frames (sequence 102) are scrolled (column 4, lines 37-40), but Van der Hoven fails to disclose to start selection of a next still image or moving image in order to reproduce the next still image or moving image from the storage medium, if reproduction of the moving image reaches the end of the moving image, as required in the amended independent Claim 13.

For these reasons, amended independent Claim 13 is believed to be patentably distinct over the disclosure of the cited Van der Hoven reference.

Further in this regard, amended Claim 18 is a corresponding method claim of independent Claim 13 and has been amended in the manner similar to Claim 13. Accordingly, the above-described discussion of allowability applied to the amended independent Claim 13 is also applicable to the amended independent Claim 18.

In summary, in view of the arguments set forth herein, Applicant respectfully solicits the issuance of a notice of Allowance in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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